

Remarks

The present Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated March 16, 2006.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference numerals indicating which needle is for use on which side of the body. Applicants have amended the specification to indicate that reference numeral 201 of Fig. 1 refers to the surgical passer used on the left side of the body, and reference numeral 203 refers to the surgical passer used on the other side of the body.

The Examiner has further objected to the drawings for including reference numeral(s) not mentioned in the specifications, but has not specifically indicated which reference numeral(s). Applicants have carefully reviewed the drawings and determined that reference numeral "109" was not used in the specification, and has deleted this reference numeral from Figure 1. In addition, applicant has found that some reference numerals set forth in Figure 1 were also mistakenly used in later figures to refer to different components. Applicant has renumbered all reference numerals in Figure 1 by replacing each 100 series number with a corresponding 200 series number, none of which are used in later drawings. Finally, reference numeral "190" has been removed from the specification, as it does not appear in any of the drawings.

Marked up Annotated Drawings as well as a full set of drawings, each of which is labeled "Replacement Sheet" are enclosed.

Claim Rejections/Objections

The Examiner has indicated that all pending claims are in condition for allowance with the exception of claim 9, which has been objected to on the grounds that the use of trademarks is not permitted in claims. Applicant has amended claim 9 to replace the recited trademark with the term "film."

In view of the foregoing applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and that all objections have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that this case be passed to issuance.

Although no fee is believed to be due in connection with this Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit Account No. 10-0750/GYN-5014/MJS

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Marked-Up Drawing

FIG. 1

